

I am in agreement that the element 1 examination requiring the demonstration of proficiency with Morse Code should be immediately dropped from the requirements for Amateur Operation below 30Mhz. This is in concert with recent decisions at WRC'03 and actions taken by other significant administrations worldwide.

I STRONGLY oppose the notion of ANY other changes at this time. The ONLY changes which seem prudent and called for are those outlined in the NVEC proposal and briefly summarized herein, namely the elimination of element 1.

In terms of anecdotal information the most grievous operating behaviour I have noticed on the air comes from "no-code bashers" whom I have personally witnessed jamming and spamming repeaters in use by "no-code technicians" in an attempt to "run them off"

Once, not more than two weeks ago and inspired by conversations related to WRC'03 events two Extra class licensee's jumped in on a QSO on a local repeater and began berating the operators who had been in QSO (A man and wife, new "no-code" technicians). These self professed Morse Code operators stated that the lack of Morse Code proficiency testing would reduce the bands to C.B. quality. They would not yield the frequency back to the previous operators for over 15 minutes while they expounded their beliefs over and over in combative and ugly language.

The two stations in QSO quickly signed and went off the air in order to avoid prolonged difficulty.

Imagine the irony of that! The two technician class operators were shaken but not stirred from their new found love of radio. But what an ugly introduction to the fraternity, huh?

Best regards from Jon Gefaell K4CQY General Class Amateur